

Warwickshire Police have been in touch with the Diocesan Office to alert us to incidents in three of our churches involving the theft of silver from safes. They have provided us with the following information in a bid to try to identify who might be responsible for these crimes.



“At approximately 14:50hrs on Friday 21 November 2008, unknown offender(s) entered St Johns Church in Henley In Arden and entered the insecure vestry to the rear of the church. Once inside, offender(s) used some keys located in the vestry to unlock the safe and remove £250 cash and 5 silver antique communion cups.

“In Feb 2009 two burglaries have occurred in Warwickshire at Churches involving keys to the safe being on public view leading to stolen silverware. At All Saints church in Leamington Hastings over an Open Church weekend on the 14th/15th of February a similar crime was committed.”

The police have released this photograph, obtained from church CCTV, depicting a white male late 40's - early 50's, slim build, short grey hair, wearing a waist length black leather jacket and dark trousers.

If you have any information about this man or if you have anything to report regarding the Leamington Hastings crime you need to make contact with Amy Deeming at Rugby Police Station on 01788 541111 or Steve Cox, the Warwickshire Police Antiques Officer. His telephone number is 01926415793. You can also e-mail him on steven.cox@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

You can alternatively make an anonymous call by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

The National Churchwatch website can help you with security issues you may be facing, especially in the light of worrying incidents like these. Here you will find lots of downloadable publications and guidance. www.nationalchurchwatch.com

Do circulate this around your networks, especially to those people who may be spending more time in church in the run up to Easter organising special events or services. There will be times when your church building is more vulnerable. If you need help with any of this do contact us here at the Diocese on 024 7652 1346.